

Society for Cinema and Media Studies Pedagogy Award  
SCMS Office  
640 Parrington Oval, Room 302  
Norman, OK 73019

July 12, 2006

Re: Letter of Recommendation for Chuck Kleinhans

Dear SCMS Pedagogy Award Committee:

I enthusiastically recommend Dr. Chuck Kleinhans for the 2007 SCMS Pedagogy award. I have known Chuck for thirteen years: as a graduate professor, dissertation advisor, and mentor, and believe that every successful step I have taken towards forging my career in film and media studies has been profoundly impacted by his research interests, his teaching style, his experiences in and out of academe, and his unwavering support. The sheer breadth of knowledge he exhibits in relation to film, television, and new media, combined with further explorations in the discipline and the incorporation of cutting edge technology into his classes and projects makes every class he teaches fresh, exciting, and groundbreaking. One could take the same course with Chuck every year and never have the same experience twice—he is always exploring new techniques and updating course material.

I have never met a more versatile professor who continues to exhibit such passion and joy in his teaching and mentoring. As Chuck's teaching assistant for Introduction to Popular Culture at Northwestern University, I saw him engage an enormous lecture class with contemporary cultural issues and interactive projects, always managing to have his finger on the pulse of what was "cool," and teaching students how to critically engage with their world instead of passively consuming it. He brought the same passion to less mainstream material in his smaller Experimental film class (where I was also his TA), creating an atmosphere of safety and support that encouraged students to take intellectual risks with challenging material. As I remember one skeptical student commenting, "He can make scratches on black leader exciting."

As a graduate professor, Chuck inspires intellectual curiosity without ever imposing his agenda on students or tempering their enthusiasm. He was at the forefront of intellectual work being done on film and media pornography and sexual representations when I arrived at Northwestern, and he sparked my creativity so that I could continue to pursue the issues and questions he had stimulated in my dissertation on the erotic thriller and my own published work on porn. He has also written me recommendations for jobs and fellowships, attended my conference papers, put me in touch with colleagues, editors (book and journal), and even invited me back to Northwestern to give a talk, which I turned into an article that was just accepted for publication. Still, I want to emphasize, Chuck does this for *all* of the students he takes under his wing; our success stories are his (and there are so many of us)! He engages with film and media studies with professionalism, practicality, and a necessary sense of humor and fun—qualities that inspire fierce loyalty and intellectual joy in the lives of students he has touched. I feel honored to have worked with Chuck Kleinhans and to carry on some part of his legacy with my students and my own research.

Best wishes,

Dr. Nina K. Martin  
Assistant Professor of Film Studies